

In the claims:

1. (Amended) A method of forming a tamper resistant seal on a plastic bag containing a loaf of bread comprising the steps of:

flattening a portion of the neck of the bag adjacent the open end of the bag;

positioning a segment of the flattened portion to bridge between spaced grippers;

heating the segment spanning between the grippers to a temperature sufficient for bonding material forming the neck of the bag for forming a sealed segment such that the product in the bag is not accessible; gathering the flattened portion of the bag between the sealed segment and the product; and attaching a reusable closure to said neck.

2. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1 with the addition of the step of perforating the bag, before heating the segment spanning between the grippers for forming a row of perforations between the [secured] sealed segment and the product in the bag. [for forming a strip of perforations.]

3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of heating the segment spanning between the grippers to a temperature sufficient for bonding material forming the neck of the bag such that the product in the bag is not accessible [securing at least a segment of the flattened portion of the neck of the bag] comprises moving the neck of the bag such that streams of heated air impinge on the surface of the bag for fusing panels on the bag together to form a sealed strip.

4. (Amended) A method of forming a tamper resistant seal on a plastic bag having a neck, with ink on the neck of the bag that may be softened by heat, and sides welded together such that the contents of the bag are not accessible containing a loaf of bread comprising the steps of:

flattening a portion of the neck of the bag adjacent the open end of the bag;

5 positioning a segment of the flattened portion of the neck of the bag such that it bridges space between horizontally spaced grippers;

heating the portion of the neck of the bag that it bridges space between spaced grippers to a

temperature sufficient for bonding material forming the neck of the bag for forming a sealed segment such that the contents of the bag are not accessible;

gathering the flattened portion of the bag between the sealed segment and the loaf of bread;
and

5 attaching a reusable closure to said neck. [The method of Claim 1] wherein the step of securing at least a segment of the flattened portion of the bag comprises the steps of:

delivering air heated to a temperature in a range between about 315° and 600° Fahrenheit in a stream to impinge against the surface of the bag; and

10 gripping portions of the bag adjacent opposite sides of the segment of the bag against which the stream of air impinges.

11. (Amended) Apparatus for forming a [tamer] tamper resistant closure on a plastic bag containing a product comprising:

a conveyor for moving a plastic bag containing a product along a path, said bag having an open end forming a neck extending beyond the product in the bag;

15 an air nozzle for flattening the open neck as the bag is moved by said conveyor;

a pair of upper brushes and a pair of lower brushes, a first of said pair of upper and lower brushes having bristles arranged to engage the flattened neck of the bag and draw the bag transversely across said conveyor, second upper and lower brushes having angularly inclined bristles for moving the leading edge of the bag neck longitudinally of the conveyor while the trailing 20 edge of the bag neck is engaged by the first upper and lower brushes;

a pair of upper belts and a pair of lower belts, said upper and lower belts being horizontally spaced apart such that one of said upper belts and one of said lower belts engage opposite sides of a portion of the neck of the bag and one of said upper belts and one of said lower belts engages a second portion of said bag neck such that a portion of the bag neck bridges space between the upper pair of belts and the lower pair of belts;

25 a perforator wheel adjacent one side of said bag neck and an anvil having a slot formed therein adjacent the other side of the bag neck, said perforator wheel forming a row of perforations in the neck of the bag moved by said upper and lower belts; and

upper and lower air dispensers positioned to deliver heated air to impinge against upper and

lower surfaces of the portion of the bag neck bridging between the belts for melting and forming a sealed strip across the entire width of the bag neck for forming a seal extending generally parallel to the row of perforations formed in the bag neck.

12. (Amended) A wrapper for a bakery product such as a loaf of bread, comprising:

5 a reclosable bag having a neck with ink on the neck of the bag that may be softened by heat and sides welded together to form a tamper evident seal strip, said tamper evident seal strip being formed by applying heat, without physically contacting surfaces on the bag with heated sealing elements; said bag having a row of perforations formed in the neck of the bag adjacent said tamper evident seal strip to facilitate removing said seal strip from the bag to render the contents of the bag

10 accessible; and

closure means encircling the neck of the bag and closing the bag between said row of perforations and the contents of the bag to prevent contamination and for maintaining freshness of the contents of the bag.